



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Background Paper

Committee: High-Level Political Forum

Topic: Open Agenda Regarding the Achievement of SDGs

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The SDGs are the Sustainable Development Goals that will help the world become a better place for everyone. These goals were decided in 2015 and they must be completed by 2030. The 17 goals, in summary, are: end poverty, end hunger, ensure a healthy life, ensure equitable and inclusive education, achieve gender equality, ensure availability of water and sanitation for all, ensure access to reliable energy for all, decent work for all, have a sustainable infrastructure, reduce inequality between countries, make cities more sustainable, take urgent action to fight climate change, sustainably use the marine resources, protect life on land, promote peaceful societies, and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. The achievement of all SDGs must be a priority for all countries. It is fundamental that your countries develop a plan to achieve these goals and also to create new plans that can be more effective and accessible for everyone. Without the SDGs, the world would not have a clear path to seeking the best.

The countries in which SDGs are getting accomplished are primarily Sweden which has completed about 85% of the progress, next there is Denmark, Norway, and in fourth place Finland. Completing the SDGs was operating rather smoothly, most nations were focusing on these goals. With the COVID pandemic, the SDGs' progress has been affected in many ways. Leaving no other option to countries than to focus on COVID. It is expected that 115 million people will now be in extreme poverty with a total of 729 million people living under 1.90\$ dollars a day. Many companies have shut down leaving more than 1 billion people at risk of losing their job. This lack of unemployment is leaving people to die because they can't afford food or even basic health services, more than one hundred thousand people have already died because of COVID. The food market has also been affected by the closing of borders between countries, causing the agricultural workers to be exploited. In the aspect of education, it is expected that more than 1 million students leave school, this is mainly to get a job so they can survive. Education has been seriously affected all around the world, only 63% of the population of the world has access to the internet and this does not mean that 63% of the world is having virtual classes because not everyone has the possibility to afford a computer. That's why we need all types of solutions. This pandemic has shown us that the world, in general, was not achieving the SDGs productively, for example; vaccination campaigns against malaria were not effective because the mortality rate was increasing, food chains are weak with 821 million starvation cases, bad education systems with two-thirds of the children not getting a good education, and population having lack of job opportunity, among others.

The most influential critic against SDGs, according to experts, is the setting of contradictory goals trying to solve everything without correctly prioritizing the steps towards a better future. According to The Economist in 2015 “SDGs are a mess compared to the eight Millennium Development Goals used previously”. SDGs for the rest of opinions mark an evolution from the MDGs to finally interconnect environmental, social, and economic themes by highlighting sustainability as the main pillar for development. This would confirm that the goal of the High-Level Political Forum creation, according to the ECOSOC of the UN, would really be starting to take direction for a focused and planned 2030. Regarding the objectives of SDGs, weak evidence of success for these steps has been shown during their implementation in society. The continuous global economic growth of 3 percent has not been congruently related to ecological sustainability goals, the necessary rate of absolute global economic growth does not connect with a higher development than any country has achieved in the past. This also leads to experts thinking that the environmental sustainability side of the SDGs is not getting emphasized and defended as it should.

The resource security of organizations, countries, and individuals is put at risk, especially on lower-income populations. The environmental, social, and economic circumstances put in doubt the solidity of SDGs as an international model to follow, and the committee must focus on debating possible solutions and changes to achieve the actions pre-established for 2030. The world seeks for sustainable development, is a change that will be necessary if humanity wants to coexist for a longer-term than expected, but the change is in the committee to keep the path on track: to focus on experts’ ideas and opinions about the topic and to compromise on making real actions to achieve sustainable development.

Works Cited

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